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BUND OPENS "UNDERGROUND" CAMPAIGN

Secret Meeting Is First Sample of New Strategy

On January 23, in the new "Brown House" at 1501 Third Avenue, New York City, the German-American Bund held its first secret meeting of the year. Less than 100 of the most trusted Bund members were permitted to attend the meeting. Full credentials had to be presented by all.

The extreme secrecy of the occasion is part of the Bund's present plan for "underground" activity. The organization's leaders have decided that, in view of the increasing unpopularity of the Bund, they can accomplish more effective work by concealing all their maneuvers and by functioning only behind the scenes.

Speakers Discuss Finances and Tactics

The "Brown House" meeting opened with a silent prayer for the victory of the Nazis over England. The Horst Wessel Lied was then sung. The first speaker to address the grimly attentive audience was August Klapproth, Eastern Gauleiter. He spoke briefly, deploring the recent New Jersey trial of key Bundites on charges of race hatred, stating it was an example of "anti-Bund prejudice." He introduced the next speaker, Max Rapp, key man in the Bund hierarchy.

Rapp discussed Bund finances, which he said were in a bad condition. He urged all present to raise funds and to set as a goal a minimum of several hundred dollars each. These funds are to be used in expanding the "underground apparatus" of the Bund.

Gustave Elmer, National Organizer, spoke after Rapp. He described in detail the current strategy of the Bund, pointing out the need for occasionally masquerading as a choral society in order to obtain meeting halls; the best techniques for penetrating various German societies; etc. Declaring Bund members should remember at all times their allegiance to the Third Reich, he urged an increase in pro-Nazi propaganda.

The meeting closed with the singing of the Horst Wessel.

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COUGHLIN PROPAGANDA BEARS FRUIT

Father Coughlin's consistent praise of the Fifth Column is having the desired effect upon his followers. As evidence of this, the January 27 issue of Social Justice proudly displays a letter to the editors which states:

"When General Mola said he had a fifth column, he coined a phrase destined to become a classic.

"Note that General Mola's fifth column comprised the Christians -- Spanish patriots -- people who loved their country, but who were trapped inside the lines of the forces of the usurping Red Government ...

"It must be perfectly clear, therefore, that anyone in the United States of America who believes that Jesus Christ is a greater teacher than Karl Marx, belongs to ... the 'fifth column.'"

The letter is signed "Patriot." The writer apparently has patriotic inclinations similar to those of the "Spanish patriots" he mentions, who betrayed Spain into the hands of the Nazis, the Italian Fascists, and their errand boy Francisco Franco.

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ST. LOUIS FRIENDS OF COUGHLIN

A group of Coughlinites in St. Louis, Missouri, who call themselves the Missouri Friends of Social Justice, have begun issuing a monthly publication, Social Justice Digest. The publication, an eight page paper, is distinguished by virulent attacks on the Jewish people, although the paper piously observes, "We object to ... the nasty insinuation that Father Coughlin is an anti-Semite."

Apparently the editors of the Digest have no reservation about being anti-Semitic themselves. They incorporate in their paper such statements as, " ... foreign and domestic Rabbis, Jewish International Bankers, Jewish newspapers, columnists and radio clamor for war"; "It is a well-known fact that many Jews are agitators for war"; " ... the Republican candidate [Willkie] imitates President Roosevelt in that he prefers the defense of the Jews to the defense of the Christians." The writings of Colonel E. N. Sanctuary, notorious pro-Nazi (see The Hour for October 12, 1940), are cited as being patriotic and authoritative.

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JAPANESE RECOMMEND DENNIS' BOOK

The January 25 issue of the Japanese American Review warmly endorses Lawrence Dennis' latest book, The Dynamics of War and Revolution. According to the Nipponese propaganda weekly,



"This delightfully intelligent book deserves to be widely read. ... all commentators upon the state of the universe, including editors of religious journals, should read and ponder it."

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FIFTH COLUMNIST AGAIN "EXPOSES" FIFTH COLUMN

Fifth Columnist Joseph P. Kamp, head of the fascistic Constitutional Educational League, has written and is distributing the third in a series of booklets purporting to reveal subversive activities in the United States. The first two of his literary efforts along these lines, The Fifth Column In Washington and The Fifth Column In The South, have already been described in The Hour (see The Hour for August 17, 1940 and November 9, 1940). The booklet on Washington was mainly anti-New Deal and anti-Semitic; the one on the South, mainly anti-Negro.

The title of Kamp's latest work is The Fifth Column vs. The Dies Committee. The thirty-four page booklet is devoted to attacking President Roosevelt and his "friends in the Fifth Column," and to praising Congressman Dies. A typical example of its contents follows:

"Franklin Roosevelt and a lot of his friends must feel extremely uncomfortable -- seeing eye to eye and working hand in hand with Hitler for the same objective -- to kill the Dies Committee.

"And some of them -- most assuredly not all -- ought to feel a little bit out of place standing shoulder to shoulder with Bloody Stalin on the same issue. ...

"There must be no Fifth Column victory in America!

"Chairman Dies and his Committee can see to that!

"The Dies Committee needs a million dollars!

"Congress should make it available!

"And without delay!"

An interesting sidelight on this latest work of Kamp's is that, although its price is marked on the cover as being twenty-five cents, it is being distributed free of charge.

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HALIFAX'S FRIEND IN TROUBLE

We are informed that Tracy Phillips, self-styled emissary of Lord Halifax and coordinator of Nazi-Ukrainian activities in Canada (see The Hour for December 21, 1940), has been ordered by the Canadian Government either to give up his pro-Nazi work or to leave the country. The Hour's exposés of Phillips' role are said to have played an important part in prompting this action in Ottawa.

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DESTINY PARTY "INVADES" UPPER MANHATTAN

McWilliams Predicts He and Lindbergh Will
One Day Lead American People

On the evening of January 22 the American Destiny Party opened a membership drive in upper Manhattan with a meeting at the Glencoe Athletic Club, 159th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Between three and four hundred people crowded into the small drab hall. Strong-arm members of the Party stood at the door scrutinizing everyone who entered. When the meeting opened, Louis Helmond, Secretary of the Party, announced that two "stooges" had already been thrown out.

Helmond acted as chairman, introducing the speakers; James Downey, prominent Christian Fronter; Frank Woodruff, stout garrulous pro-Nazi; and Joseph McWilliams, the egocentric fuehrer of the Party.

McWilliams chose for his theme the "history of the Jewish people." His rambling speech lasted for more than an hour. He advocated that the United States settle its "Jewish problem" in the same manner as "Egypt and Nazi Germany settled theirs." The crowd punctuated his anti-Semitic tirade with exclamations of approval. He promised that at the next meeting, "Christian Consumer Directories" would be distributed, which would make it possible for all "real Aryans" to put their beliefs into practise by boycotting all "non-Aryan stores" in New York City.

Second Meeting at Club

On January 29 the Party held its second meeting at the Glencoe Athletic Club. As McWilliams had promised, the "Christian Directories" were distributed. McWilliams himself described how they should be used. There were, he pointed out, four different directories, each covering a particular section in Manhattan. He brandished the small pamphlets and carefully described the district defined in each.

The meeting had the usual revival-like atmosphere. This time McWilliams' speech lasted almost two hours. Waving his arms, pounding the speakers' table and melodramatically contorting his face, McWilliams held his audience at a pitch of excitement. He urged all of them to keep "little black books" in readiness for Der Tag; he was keeping one of his own, he said. "If the liberals and Jews think they were badly treated by Hitler, let them see what happens when we get into power!" he shouted. Women in the crowd chanted anti-Semitic slogans. Men cried out their agreement with McWilliams.

At the conclusion of his speech, McWilliams brought the audience to its feet by vehemently declaring: "The day is not far off when we shall meet no more in a small hall like this. The day will soon come when our Party will fill Madison Square Garden to overflowing and Lindbergh and I will speak to you from the platform!"